WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Claim 1

A method for disrupting the normal functioning of an audio-visual display ~~system~~ device, comprising:

A) transmitting a series of codes from a remote control unit to ~~an~~ the audio-visual display device;

B) recognizing the series of codes within the audio-visual display device;

C) changing the state of operations of the audio-visual display device from normal to disrupted upon recognition of the series of codes; and

D) storing an indication of the state of operations in non-volatile memory within the audio-visual ~~receiver~~ display device.

Claim 2

The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of changing the state of operations of the audio-visual display device from normal to disrupted further includes:

displaying a solid color visual display.

Claim 3

The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of changing the state of operations of the audio-visual display device from normal to disrupted further includes:

setting ~~the~~ contrast and brightness levels of the visual display to ~~minimums~~ less than optimal settings.

Claim 4

The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of changing the state of operations of the audio-visual display device from normal to disrupted further includes:

causing a character generator of the audio-visual display device to produce a single hue over substantially the entire field of the visual display.

Claim 5

The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of changing the state of operations of the audio-visual display device from normal to disrupted further includes:

~~disabling~~ disrupting an audio output of the audio-visual display device.

Claim 6

The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of changing the state of operations of the audio-visual display device from normal to disrupted further includes:

~~disabling~~ disrupting a closed captioning function of the visual display.

Claim 7

The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of changing the state of operations of the audio-visual display device from normal to disrupted further includes:

changing the state of operations from disrupted back to normal upon a second transmission and recognition of the series of codes.

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Claim 8

The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting a series of codes further includes transmitting an entry code to activate a disruption subroutine, followed by an activation sequence of codes to enable the disruption subroutine.

Claim 9

The method according to claim 8 including the further step of transmitting a command code to activate the changing of the state of operations of the audio-visual display device.

Claim 10

A method for disrupting the normal functioning of an audio-visual display device comprising:

A) transmitting an entry code from a remote control unit to an audio-visual display device for a first set amount of time;

B) advancing the audio-visual display device to an activation state upon receipt of the entry code;

C) transmitting a first activation code from the remote control unit to the audio-visual display device within a second set amount of time from entering the activation state;

D) advancing the audio-visual display device to a first sequence state;

E) transmitting a second activation code from the remote control unit to the audio-visual display device within a third set time substantially less than the second set time;

F) advancing the audio-visual device to a second sequence state;

G) transmitting a third activation code from the remote control unit to the audio-visual display device within the third set time;

H) advancing the audio-visual display device to a third sequence state;

I) transmitting a command code after the activation sequence to achieve disruption of normal operations of the audio-visual display device within a fourth set time.

Claim 11

The method of claim 10 further including:

returning to normal audio-visual display device operation if the code transmission sequence is not received exact within the set times.

Claim 12

The method of claim 10 further including:

disrupting the visual display of the audio-visual display device.

Claim 13

The method of claim 12 further including:

setting the contrast and brightness levels to minimums.

Claim 14

The method of claim 12 further including:

displaying a solid color visual display.

Claim 15

The method of claim 12 further including:

causing a character generator of the audio-visual display device to produce a single hue over substantially the entire field of the visual display.

Claim 16

The method of claim 10 further including:

~~disabling~~ disrupting an audio output of the audio-visual display device.

Claim 17

The method of claim 10 further including:

~~disabling~~ disrupting a closed captioning function of the audio-visual display device.

Claim 18

The method of claim 10 further including:

restoring normal operations of the audio-visual display device by transmitting the same code sequence as set forth in claim 10 to the audio-visual display device a second time.